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Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 8 August 2011 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am compelled to bring to your attention the escalating tensions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as a result of Israel's illegal policies and practices of military aggression and colonization and its continuous provocations and incitement against the Palestinian people. In this regard, the situation on the ground continues to remain highly volatile and unsustainable and requires urgent redress by the international community so as to bring a halt to the massive violations that continue to be perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinian people.

Instead of advancing peace, Israel, the occupying Power, has chosen to do the exact opposite by intensifying its violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In this connection, as the Palestinian people observe the holy month of Ramadan, Israel, the occupying Power, has continued to employ indiscriminate and disproportionate force, causing death and injury to civilians, including women and children. One such incident that illustrates the utter disregard for Palestinian life took place just before dawn prayers on 1 August 2011, the first day of Ramadan, in which Israeli occupying forces raided the Qalandiya refugee camp, in the West Bank, killing two young men. The two young men, Mu'tasim Odwan, 22 years old, and Mohammed Ali Khalifa, 23 years old, were shot in the head and stomach, respectively, and died instantly. Scores of Palestinian civilians were also injured and many were rounded up and illegally detained during the same ferocious military raid.

Moreover, the Palestinian people in the besieged Gaza Strip have not been spared the wrath of the occupying Power as it continues to commit acts of military aggression against the more than 1.5 million inhabitants living there. Over the past week, Israeli occupying forces launched multiple air strikes against the Gaza Strip, including an air strike targeting a group of fishermen on the shores of Rafah. The air strikes resulted in the injury of scores of Palestinians and caused extensive material

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damage to homes and properties. It must be recalled that military attacks against civilian areas, such as these latest crimes by the occupying Power, are unlawful under international humanitarian law and constitute grave acts of terror, provocation and incitement against the Palestinian people. In addition to being punished by the incessant military aggression against them, the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip continues to be collectively punished by the occupying Power's illegitimate blockade which continues to deepen poverty and despair in Gaza. The Palestinian leadership appeals to the international community to call on Israel to cease its military attacks against the Gaza Strip and to abide by its obligations under international humanitarian law and to cease forthwith all attacks against the Palestinian civilian population and its collective punishment, including by fully lifting the blockade.

At the same time, Israel has been unrelenting in its illegal drive to colonize the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in its ongoing illegal attempts to change the reality on the ground in Occupied East Jerusalem through settlement expansion, home demolitions, evictions and the displacement of hundreds of Palestinians. In the latest illegal, reckless and provocative declaration, which came on Thursday, 4 August 2011, the Israeli government announced the approval given to building 900 more settlement units in the so-called settlement of "Har Homa" located in Jabal Abu Ghneim in Occupied East Jerusalem. In addition to making the recent provocative declaration of the intention to construct more illegal settlement units in Occupied East Jerusalem, the Israeli occupying forces have in recent days carried out the destruction of more Palestinian property and land. These illegal actions once again confirm Israel's deliberate intent to defy international law and the unequivocal calls of the international community for the immediate and full cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In this regard, we regret to reiterate that continued international inaction has clearly emboldened Israel in its defiance and intransigence.

Hand in hand with its increased settlement activity is the rise in home demolitions and displacement of Palestinian civilians by the occupying Power. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs released a report last week documenting alarming trends in the forced displacement of Palestinians and stated that more home demolitions have taken place so far in 2011 than in all of 2009 and 2010 combined. More specifically, the report stated that 342 Palestinian-owned structures had been demolished by the occupying Power in the first half of 2011; and 656 people, including 351 children, lost their homes in the first half of 2011, almost five times more than within the same period last year. Shockingly, there are currently over 3,000 demolition orders outstanding, including 18 targeting schools. We thus call on the international community to condemn the destruction of Palestinian homes and the subsequent displacement of entire families and to take the necessary actions to compel the occupying Power to halt this ruthless and cruel practice.

Moreover, I regret to inform you that Israeli settler-related terror, violence, harassment and intimidation against the Palestinian civilian population throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, have intensified. Despicable and destructive acts against Palestinian civilians and their properties have continued unabated, including four separate incidents last week, in which settlers set fire to Palestinian agricultural property in the villages of Turmusayya,

Burin and Awarta in the West Bank, damaging about 400 olive and almond trees. Settlers even attacked the Palestinian fire brigade as it was attempting to extinguish the fires. Reports have also indicated that a shocking 4,000 or more trees belonging to Palestinians have been uprooted, burned or otherwise vandalized by settlers since the beginning of the year. Additionally, in two separate incidents in Hebron, settlers from the so-called settlement outpost called "Havat Ma'on" attacked and injured five international activists, who were escorting children from a summer camp in a nearby village and assisting Palestinian shepherds in accessing their land.

We are clearly at a critical juncture and the international community, including the Security Council, must rise to the challenge of upholding its responsibilities in respect of bringing Israel into compliance with its obligations as an occupying Power. Therefore, the international community must not allow Israel, the occupying Power, to perpetrate, with total impunity and without accountability, military attacks, the killing and injury of innocent civilians, the destruction of homes and property, the colonization of the Palestinian land, collective punishment, and the arbitrary imprisonment and detention of Palestinian civilians. We firmly believe that only serious coordinated action can compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease forthwith all its illegal activities and thereby prevent this volatile situation from further escalation.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 397 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 20 July 2011 (A/ES-10/525-S/2011/445), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 11 August 2011 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am compelled to write to you once again on the deteriorating situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. On 8 August 2011, I sent a letter (A/ES-10/526-S/2011/500) regarding the illegal, reckless and provocative declaration that came on Thursday, 4 August 2011, in which Israel, the occupying Power, announced the approval given to build 900 more settlement units in the so-called settlement of "Har Homa" located in Jabal Abu Ghneim in Occupied East Jerusalem. Only one week later, with total arrogance and total disregard for international law and the calls made by the international community on Israel to end its illegal settlement campaign, the occupying Power shamefully announced today the approval of 1,600 more settlement units in the so-called settlement of "Ramat Shlomo" in Occupied East Jerusalem.

The illegal unilateral actions of the occupying Power make it extremely clear to the international community that Israel is not interested in peace; rather it is interested in entrenching its colonization and 44-year long occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The international community must compel Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and end its illegal occupation including its colonization campaign, and must seriously begin to take further effective measures to end the Israeli occupation which began in 1967 to salvage the possibility of the two-State solution.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 398 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 8 August 2011 (A/ES-10/526-S/2011/500), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian

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people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/528–S/2011/521

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 17 August 2011 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Once again, Israel, the occupying Power, is grossly confirming its insistence on continuing to pursue its illegal, expansionist agenda in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, rather than pursuing serious peace efforts that will bring an end to its insidious, illegitimate forty-four year belligerent military occupation of the Palestinian land since June 1967.

Following the recent announcements of the approval of plans for the construction of at least 2,500 new units in two illegal settlements in Occupied East Jerusalem, to which I referred in my recent letters of 8 and 11 August 2011 (A/ES-10/526-S/2011/500 and A/ES-10/527-S/2011/515), the Israeli Government declared, on 15 August, that the Defense Minister has approved plans for the further expansion of the illegal settlement of Ariel, established far beyond the pre-1967 borders, 22 kilometres deep into the central northern West Bank.

The plans provide for construction of at least 277 new units in that illegal settlement, with the declared intention of providing at least 100 of those units for Israeli settlers who had in the past been living in settlements in the Gaza Strip prior to the so-called "disengagement" carried out in 2005, who will now be again transferred illegally into the Occupied Palestinian Territory, as thousands of settlers like them have already been transferred, in grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The approval of these plans raises the total of new units approved in the illegal settlements to nearly 2,800 units in the span of just two weeks, revealing the intensity and extent of the occupying Power's attempts to further entrench these illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to further alter the demographic composition and character of that Territory in order to forcibly and illegally prejudge the final outcome of a peace settlement, undermining the essence and foundation of the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders.

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Such illegal, unilateral actions constitute flagrant provocations that are stoking already-high tensions and frustrations among the Palestinian people as they continue to witness the confiscation and colonization of their land by Israel, the occupying Power, and are deepening the people's mistrust of the occupying Power, whose malicious intentions are repeatedly exposed by such illegal actions and policies. In this regard, we reiterate the total condemnation and rejection by the Palestinian people and their leadership of all Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, including, in particular, the construction of settlements and the Wall and the demolition of Palestinian homes and properties.

Furthermore, we reaffirm the international consensus position, firmly rooted in international law, that such colonization measures have no legitimacy whatsoever and will remain rejected and unrecognized by the international community. Indeed, Israel's continued pursuit of settlement activities constitutes a brazen challenge to the international community's repeated calls for a total cessation of all settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

Israel's defiance of these international calls, including that of the Quartet of yesterday, 16 August 2011, whereby it issued yet another unequivocal demand for a complete cessation of settlement activities, must not be tolerated. Immediate and direct measures by the international community are needed to enforce international law. Failure by the international community, including the Security Council, to do so will only foster further Israeli impunity. As such, more than merely threatening the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, the continuation of Israel's illegal settlement campaign will make it physically and politically impossible to achieve the two-State solution.

The dangers are of the occupying Power's illegal, destructive course of action are manifold and require urgent redress if there is to be any chance to stop Israel's violations and the further deterioration of the situation on the ground and to salvage the prospects for achieving a peace based on the two-State solution in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and the long-standing terms of reference of the peace process. The responsibilities and obligations of the international community, including of the Security Council, in this regard are clear and must be upheld. The time is now, and effective and serious international action must be undertaken.

Today, I must also draw your attention to the continuing Israeli military campaign against the Occupied Gaza Strip that continues to cause loss of civilian life and injuries. Yesterday, 16 August, the Israeli occupying forces carried out a series of air strikes against civilian areas in the Gaza Strip that targeted Gaza City, Khan Younis and Rafah. Those attacks resulted in the killing of one Palestinian man, Mousa Shteiwi, aged 29, and the wounding of several others, including a 6-year-old child. Such Israeli military operations continue to terrorize the Palestinian people in Gaza, further deepening their suffering under the blockade being cruelly and illegally imposed by Israel. Also yesterday, a Palestinian man, Amin Taleb Al-Dabash, aged 38, was killed when he was run over by a vehicle of the Israeli occupying forces in the Jabal Abu Ghneim neighbourhood of Occupied East Jerusalem. We condemn all such violent actions and reiterate the need for protection of the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 399 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 11 August 2011 (A/ES-10/527-S/2011/515) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 19 August 2011 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

This letter constitutes the 401st letter we have written to you since 28 September 2000. These letters have documented many, but not all, of Israel, the occupying Power's, ongoing violations of international law, international humanitarian law and human rights law, including war crimes, against the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. These crimes by the occupying Power have not only continued to inflict harm and suffering on the Palestinian civilian population living under its 44-year-old occupation, but to fuel tensions and instability in the region and to cause the continued steep deterioration of the situation on the ground, including by stoking another cycle of lethal violence.

To add to the long list of criminal acts by Israel, the occupying Power, I must draw your attention to the intensification of military aggression by the occupying Power against the Palestinian people in the besieged Gaza Strip. Ten Palestinians have been killed and dozens more injured by a series of Israeli military air strikes against the Gaza Strip launched late on Thursday, 18 August 2011, and today. Among the innocent civilians brutally murdered by the occupying Power were two children, including 2-year-old Malek Khaled Shaath and 13-year-old Mahmoud Atef Abu Samra.

The attacks throughout the Gaza Strip also killed eight other Palestinians, including Abu Awad Al-Nairab, Emad Hammad, Emad Nasr, Khaled Al-Masri, Mohammed Innayeh and Samed Abed. Khaled Hamad Shaath, who was the father of the 2-year-old boy mentioned above, was also killed. In addition, more than 20 Palestinian civilians, mainly children and women, including a pregnant woman, were injured, in the aerial bombardments against various neighbourhoods and areas of the besieged Gaza Strip. Moreover, Ashraf Azzam died of injuries inflicted by Israeli air strikes that were carried out in the Gaza Strip a few days ago, as documented in our letter to you dated 17 August 2011 (A/ES-10/528-S/2011-521).

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In an act of collective punishment, Israeli war planes also bombed an electric generator in the Al-Nuseirat refugee camp, causing a power outage that has plunged Gaza into darkness during the holy month of Ramadan. The threat of even more killings and destruction by the occupying Power looms very darkly over Gaza as Israeli officials, particularly the Prime Minister, are declaring that this onslaught is "only the beginning".

In light of the dangerous deterioration of the situation and escalation of tensions, the Palestinian leadership calls upon the international community, including the Security Council, to compel Israel to cease its military attacks against the Gaza Strip and to abide by its obligations under international humanitarian law and to cease forthwith all attacks against the Palestinian civilian population and all forms of military reprisals and collective punishment against them, including its dehumanizing and unlawful blockade. As the Palestinian leadership has done time and time again in the past, it continues to condemn the killing of all innocent civilians, whoever they maybe. Having said that, it must be recalled, however, that Israel, as an occupying Power, has responsibilities under international humanitarian law towards the civilian population it occupies and must also respect all human rights conventions, which are applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. We further stress the imperative of the protection of civilians living under foreign occupation in all circumstances.

The international community must not allow Israel, the occupying Power, to refuel the vicious cycle of violence that has claimed so many innocent lives and wrought vast destruction and devastation on the Palestinian people under its occupation. Nor can it allow Israel to act with impunity without repercussions as this can only, and will continue to, embolden the occupying Power to commit crimes without fear of punishment. Clearly, the situation demands immediate redress, which also includes real and genuine efforts towards ensuring accountability for all of the war crimes committed over the years by the occupying Power against the Palestinian people.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 400 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 17 August 2011 (A/ES-10/528-S/2011/521), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 22 August 2011 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you that over the past few days, Israel, the occupying Power, continued its campaign of military aggression against the Occupied Palestinian Territory, assaulting the Gaza Strip with more air strikes, causing further death and injury to Palestinian civilians, and launching a large-scale military raid and arrest operation in the West Bank.

The Israeli military attacks against the Gaza Strip over the weekend raised the death toll among Palestinian civilians, with 15 people killed and more than 40 wounded since this latest military aggression began on 18 August 2011. Tragically, among the five Palestinians killed by the Israeli occupying forces since our last letter to you, on Friday, 19 August, were a doctor, his brother and his son, leaving behind yet another deeply traumatized family in the Gaza Strip. Those five most recent victims of Israel's aggression included an infant child, Islam Mo'taz Bassem Quraiqe, 1 year old; his father, Mo'taz Bassem Quraiqe, aged 29; Dr. Munzer Bassem Quraiqe, aged 33; Emad Fareed Abu Aabda, aged 21; and Anwar Hassan Saleem, aged 22. Further, among the dozens of Palestinians wounded, many have endured grave injuries, sustaining charring and burning of their bodies and the loss of lower and upper limbs, as a result of the vicious weaponry and ammunition used by the occupying Power against them.

In addition, the occupying forces caused extensive damage to Palestinian properties throughout the Gaza Strip in those military attacks, with civilian infrastructure bearing the brunt of the attacks. Such widespread destruction recalls the deliberate targeting by Israel, the occupying Power, of Palestinian properties and institutions during its criminal and barbaric December 2008-January 2009 military aggression against Gaza, the so-called "Operation Cast Lead", by which the occupying forces caused massive damage and destruction to Palestinian homes, water, sewage and electricity networks, schools, hospitals, agricultural properties and businesses, further crippling the functioning of society and the economy in

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Gaza and causing vast trauma to the civilian population, particularly children and women.

In this latest series of attacks, the Israeli occupying forces have caused damage to a physiotherapy clinic, the only one of its kind in Gaza, which was run by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development; four water pumps for the sewage system in Al-Nuseirat refugee camp; an electricity generator, also in Al-Nuseirat; the office of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which had been coordinating and delivering humanitarian aid to the civilian population; and several other properties housing Government institutions and civil society organizations. Needless to say, the destruction caused to the water, sewage and electrical infrastructure has further intensified the hardship being suffered by the Palestinian people in the besieged and blockaded Gaza Strip in the heat of this month of August, which also coincides with the holy month of Ramadan.

The Palestinian leadership condemns in the strongest terms these Israeli military attacks and the killing and wounding of Palestinian civilians and destruction to properties and infrastructure in the Gaza Strip. We call for action, including by the Security Council, to hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable for these crimes of aggression and brutality, including deliberate reprisals and collective punishment, against the Palestinian people and to bring to an immediate end this renewed cycle of violence. Moreover, we reiterate the need to ensure the protection of the Palestinian civilian population throughout the entirety of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in accordance with the provisions and obligations enshrined in international humanitarian law and the direct commitment repeatedly made by the Security Council in this regard.

Today, I must also draw your attention to the simultaneous escalation of Israeli military operations throughout the West Bank, signalling a deliberate Israeli attempt to intensify tensions and confrontations on all fronts. Yesterday, 21 August, the Israeli occupying forces raided Al-Khalil (Hebron) and the surrounding area in the West Bank with a massive force, including over 100 military vehicles. The occupying army forcibly raided homes and arrested over 60 people in Al-Khalil and dozens of others in other areas, including a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council. The Israeli military raids also caused injury to dozens of Palestinians and damage to Palestinian homes. We stress the need to address this crisis and to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease all such acts of aggression against the Palestinian people and to abide by its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention, including with regard to its treatment of Palestinian prisoners and detainees, whose immediate release the Palestinian leadership continues to demand.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 401 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 19 August 2011 (A/ES-10/529-S/2011/528), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

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(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations